

Weekly Column for May 31, 2007

Welcome to the final column of May. This year seems to be moving along as swiftly as 2006.

Yesterday was an important day for us in Troy as it relates to our fight against criminal activity and the constant pursuit for a better quality of life.

The City announced it would move to its North police substation into North Central at 3100 Sixth Avenue, the site of the former Community Grocery. Up until a few months ago, this building was known as a hotspot in this neighborhood. A Code Enforcement inspection led to it being shut down, and several months later, the City foreclosed on the store for failure to pay taxes.

We announced the move on Wednesday with members of the Police Department, City Council President Hank Bauer, City Councilman Mark McGrath, community leaders, and neighbors. The reaction from all involved was very positive.

We believe that the change in location of the substation will have a positive effect in the North Central community and those in its immediate vicinity. It will allow our officers to foster a stronger relationship with the people in the community, while providing a stronger police presence in these neighborhoods.

At the same time, we more than aware that this will upset some neighbors near the former Police Station in Lansingburgh. I cannot state strongly enough that the police presence in your neighborhoods will not decrease at all.

However, this area of North Central has been a troublesome spot for several years. We believe that in turning this building into a substation will further the Community Policing effort in the entire northern end of Troy, while providing a bit of motivation for the many good residents that live here and are committed to improving the community.

City crews have begun working on the building to outfit it as a substation, and we hope to have officers reporting there on a daily basis beginning the first week of July. We also are working up a plan to put some type of pocket park in the immediate green parcel of land to the north.

Councilman McGrath represents the North Central neighborhood, and he has been pushing for this move for a while. I cannot agree more with what he said yesterday:

“This gives our community a special opportunity to have the young people in this area see these officers in a non-confrontational light. It will go a long way in helping forge a

relationship between the officers and the youth in this area, which is so vitally important to the quality of life in your neighborhood.”

One of the reasons we needed to move from the former substation is actually tremendous news. As many of you know, Northeast Shuttle has recently moved its national headquarters to Troy, and they are rapidly expanding, bringing new jobs and people to Troy.

It is always a good thing when a business moves into the City to create jobs. They have been great landlords and have pledged that the community groups that use the building for meetings may continue to do so. The spot was a good one for logistical policing, but in the end, this new substation will be in a neighborhood in need of increased police presence and we look forward to seeing the results.

Looks like a stormy weekend ahead. Stay dry and have a wonderful beginning of June.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy